

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings,  
of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 1. (original) A method of tracking hits for a network file comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3 receiving a request for said network file from a requesting  
4 device;  
5 sending said network file to said requesting device in response  
6 to said request, said network file including an instruction to transmit an  
7 indicator subsequent to said requesting device receiving said network file;  
8 transmitting said indicator from said requesting device in  
9 response to receiving said network file; and  
10 processing said indicator to track said hits for said network file.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request includes  
2 receiving said request over the global communications network referred to as  
3 the Internet.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a  
2 network address of said requested network file within said indicator, so that  
3 said indicator can be identified as corresponding to said requested network  
4 file.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a  
2 network address of a remote processor within said instruction for navigating  
3 said indicator from said requesting device over a network to said remote  
4 processor, so that said indicator can be processed.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of executing  
2 said instruction to transmit said indicator by an end-user browser at said  
3 requesting device.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of generating  
2 said request for said network file at said requesting device.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of embedding  
2 said instruction within said network file, such that said instruction is  
3 transparent to an end-user at said requesting device.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing said indicator  
2 includes counting said indicator for updating a tally of said hits for said  
3 network file.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request for said  
2 network file includes receiving said request at a proxy, said proxy having  
3 cache memory to service said request when said cache memory includes a  
4 cached copy of said requested network file, said cached copy having said  
5 instruction for transmitting said indicator from said requesting device  
6 subsequent to said requesting device receiving said cached copy.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing  
2 said instruction as programming that is compatible with JavaScript.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing  
2 said network file to include at least one of text information, image information,  
3 audio information and video information.

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1 12. (currently amended) A method of counting a number of accesses for  
2 cachable documents comprising the steps of:  
3 embedding executable code in each of a plurality of said  
4 cachable documents, said executable code being associated with triggering  
5 transmissions of count-inducing messages from clients;  
6 sending said cachable documents to said clients in response to  
7 requests made by for said cachable documents received from any one of a  
8 plurality of said clients;  
9 receiving said count-inducing messages transmitted from said  
10 clients as responses to execution of said executable code upon reception of  
11 said cachable documents; and  
12 counting said accesses on a basis of receiving said  
13 count-inducing messages, said counting being collective with respect to said  
14 accesses by said plurality of clients.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving said count-inducing  
2 messages includes receiving one of said count-inducing messages for each  
3 said cachable document received by said clients.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of storing  
2 said cachable documents in Web proxies, said Web proxies being in  
3 communication with said clients and at least one originating server via the  
4 Internet, said Web proxies being configured to store said cachable documents  
5 that are downloads from said originating server.

1 15. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of  
2 implementing said executable code by browser software of said clients, such  
3 that said count-inducing messages are transmitted from said clients.

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1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a  
2 Universal Resource Locator (URL) of a processor in said executable code to  
3 enable transmitting of said count-inducing messages from said browser  
4 software to said processor, said processor being operationally associated with  
5 said originating server.

1 17. (currently amended) A system for tracking hits over the Internet  
2 comprising:  
3 a store of a plurality of network files, each of said network files  
4 having a command to initiate a transmission of an identifier from any of a  
5 plurality of clients upon a receipt of one of said network files by said clients;  
6 programming accessible via ~~[[of]]~~ each said client, said  
7 programming being configured to request said network files and to transmit  
8 said identifier upon reception of one of said network files at said client; and  
9 a file access counter responsive to receiving said identifiers from  
10 clients as a basis for counting transfers of said network files to said clients,  
11 said file access counter being configured such that counting is collective with  
12 respect to said transfers of said network files to said plurality of clients.

1 18. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said command includes  
2 programmable code embedded within each said network file, said  
3 programmable code being configured to execute said transmissions of said  
4 identifiers upon said receipt of said network files by said client.

1 19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said programmable code  
2 includes an Internet address of said file access counter, said network files  
3 including World Wide Web pages.

1 20. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said network files include  
2 cached copies of Internet files, said store of network files being a proxy Web  
3 server.